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2 OPINION LOOKING WITHIN

Elections and the changing political landscape



by Susan Beckett Publisher

The many proposals on the ballot this fall reflect citizen frustration with all levels of government. There would be even more proposals had the legislature not passed the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act and the Michigan Minimum Wage Increase this summer to keep them off the ballot. (As legislative acts, they can be overturned or amended by a simple majority of the legislature. Leading Republicans announced their intention to weaken the measures at a future date even as they were voting to pass them.)

Due to term limits – a proposal passed by voters in 1992 – the major obstructionist force in the Michigan Senate, Arlen Meekhoff, will not be back in the winter. The majority leader from Ottawa County has run the Michigan Senate like his personal fiefdom, preventing

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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www.groundcovernews.org facebook.com/groundcover 423 S. 4th Ave, Ann Arbor 734-707-9210 any bill he personally opposed from being considered in the Senate, regardless of its popularity with the public or his peers. He is now finishing out his final term. Preventing this kind of abuse of power from persisting for decades led voters to initiate and pass the term limit proposal.

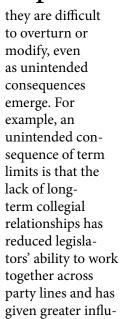
This fall, voters consider two other proposals aimed at returning power to the people. Proposal 2 would amend Michigan's Constitution such that an independent citizen's committee would draw legislative and Congressional districts. Currently, it is up to the Michigan legislature, subject to veto by the governor, to draw the district lines. History has shown that politicians draw the lines to their own advantage, especially when one party controls all branches.

The effect of politicians working to maximize seats for their party and preserve their own is that like-minded voters are packed together, creating safe districts for their representatives. Across the United States, 86 percent of House elections are in "safe" districts. Since no one from the opposition has much chance to win in the general election, the primaries determine the race. As primary voters tend to be more ideologically inclined than general election voters, fewer centrist candidates have made the general election ballot. This leads to more extreme positions and less compromise in the legislature and Congress, leaving us with gridlock, crumbling infrastructure and voter frustration. A Yes vote on Proposal 2 opts for the citizen's commission to draw voting districts instead of politi-

Proposal 3 seeks to amend the Michigan Constitution to allow absentee ballot voting for any reason, straight ticket voting, citizen voter registration at any time without proof of residency, extra time for military people to vote, and to protect secret ballots and require audits for election results. A Yes vote opts for those changes.

Proposal 1 would make the possession and use of marijuana legal for anyone 21 or older. Proponents assert that it would then be easier to regulate, and the state would benefit from taxes on its sale within our borders. Opponents argue that legalizing might convey the message that marijuana is not harmful and that the new law would thereby spread its use – and abuse. A Yes vote opts for legalization.

One objection to these proposals is that, as constitutional amendments,

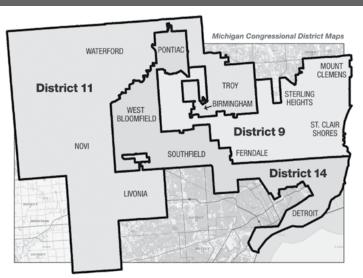


ence to lobbyists

who often know more about issues than first-term representatives. Knowing they will only be in office for six years has led state representatives to prioritize immediate gains over long-term stability. To eliminate or change term limits, another ballot proposal would have to pass.

Proposal A on the Ann Arbor City ballot, also known as the "park proposal," is the culmination of frustration of many city residents over the manner in which the disposition of the Library Lot has proceeded. In their view, the City has run roughshod over those who would like to maintain the small city feel of Ann Arbor and once again have a town square.

Opponents to Proposal A claim that selling the lot for development into a 17-story mixed-use building consisting of a hotel, apartments and retail space, with a designated 12,000-square-foot plaza for public use, will satisfy the



Michigan is home to some of the most gerrymandered voting districts in the country, including the Detroit area (above). Proposal 2 would amend the state constitution to establish an independent citizens redistricting commission charged with redrawing district lines.

need for a Commons as well as provide much-needed housing and tax revenue, and cash from the sale.

A Yes vote on Proposal A would amend the city charter to permanently prohibit sale of city-owned properties on the block that includes the downtown library and the lot atop the underground parking fronting Fifth Avenue. Instead, the city charter would require development of city-owned properties as a downtown park and civic center common space known as "Center of the City."

Whatever the outcomes might be on these ballot proposals, their existence testifies to the will of the people to be heard. Politicians who wish to stay in power would be wise to mend their imperious ways, allow hearings on matters of interest to citizens, and use the legislative process to make changes the people want.

GROUNDCOVER NEWS Volunteer Meeting Please join us at our quarterly volunteer meeting to help shape the future of Ann Arbor's street newspaper! Discussions will include: community outreach strategies • vendor recruitment • fundraising • volunteer recruitment & training • planning the next special issue Thursday, November 15, at 7 pm Groundcover News Office 423 S. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich. Bethlehem United Church of Christ Opposite the elevator on the basement level groundcovernews.org 734.263.2098

The blessing of ties



by Rev Dr. Martha Brunell Groundcover Contributor

The quilted wall hanging in my church is lovely to look at. I can't imagine walking by it without stopping. Its colors are a pleasing mix. Years ago, a friend who was a weaver helped me to see how important the neighboring colors are for any element of color in fabric art. Many of these colors are eye-poppers energized by other colors beside them. One could gaze at the detail and intricacy of the quilting stitches for hours.

There is an element of whimsy in both the material used to compose the quilted piece and in the title it bears. Much of the fabric comes from neckties, and the piece is simply called "Blessed Be the Ties That Bind." For residents in this multi-level care facility for elders the title quickly evokes an 18th-century church hymn many of them have sung since they were children, "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds."

I found myself sitting beneath the quilt as I helped a resident finish up his power of attorney for healthcare form.

As I checked that all questions had been answered, that the witnessing person was appropriate, and that the signature lines were correct, the man I was assisting reminded me he was on a deadline. After his appointment with me, he was off to a water exercise class. When we were done, forget the essential

he looked at me and smiled

with these words, "Stay as

long as you like. You could

work here for a while."

I wished I could take him up on his offer. It was a quiet corner where I would be undisturbed. However, the day after our meeting was my last day at the hospital, and I had the proverbial miles to go before I had everything wrapped up. I paused to record a few quilt pictures on my phone and then I was off to my next stop twenty-plus miles away.

Both the visuals of the quilt and its reminder of binding ties have remained with me. I'm going to suggest a handful of those ties for you and me to ponder. In these days of November, many cultures and religious communities share the practice of remembering those who have died. Consider your ties with those who have gone before you

who have had a shaping hand in who you are and how you live. Is there anything unfinished in the relatedness you have known with them?

This is also a time of dramatic change in the earth around us as it quiets and cools for winter.

Where are your most significant geographic ties? This is a question literally about the ground that claims you, your sense of belonging to a particular place, your location of home. With what communities do you identify? These communities could include those you call family, those with whom you worship, those in a support group, those who are

lives, in light and in

shadow.

your colleagues at work or around an issue that matters greatly to you.

Are there ties in your life that connect you to specific experiences of vulnerability? These could be connections around a disease, a question of justice, or a reality in our common life with one another that is often dismissed or ignored. Such connections tug on our heart strings, calling forth our compassionate presence and action.

And finally, what ties of gratitude enrich your capacity to discover the sacred, the special, what is beautiful every day, everywhere, in each and every one of us? Ties of gratitude help us never forget the essential giftedness of our lives, in light and in shadow. They are often the connections that hold us together when the way is hard and demanding.

Multiple ties bless us. In our busyness, worry or fear, we don't always stop to recall how those ties can make a difference in our days. May we each find meaning, strength and joy in the binding ties of our lives.

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4 VETERANS HEALTH CARE 5

Three generations of U.S. war veterans deploy for special mission: storytelling

by Lawrence Dolph Groundcover Contributor

Edie Meeks remembers volunteering to be an Army nurse in Vietnam. She enlisted to go there "because my brothers were both going to war. I figured someone who wanted to be over there should take care of them." Once there, Meeks said she found "Vietnam was an intense 24-hours-a-day [affair]. You had to shut your emotions down [because] there were so many traumatic things that happened."

Meeks recalled, "I hadn't seen a movie in a long time when I finally saw 'Apocalypse Now.' It wasn't what happened in the movie but the feeling that it gave; that intense insanity felt like Vietnam."

In 1993, Meeks helped raise funds to build the Women's Vietnam Memorial on the Washington Mall to honor the 10,000 women who volunteered.

The Fourth Annual Stories of Service at Hill Auditorium on November 5 honors our veterans who have served in triumph and tragedy. Five storytellers, representing three generations of veterans, will have each of their stories accompanied by music from the beautiful voices of Concordia University Concert Choir under the direction of Brian L. Altevogt.

Dale Throneberry, a former Chief Warrant Officer who flew a Bell UH-1B Huey in Vietnam nearly 50 years ago, will emcee *Stories of Service* with cohost Kate Melcher, an Apache helicopter pilot who is now Executive Director of Fisher House Michigan (*see below*).

"There was no mistaking the whopwhop-whopping of a Huey helicopter," Throneberry remembers. "It was the sound that caused the enemy to flee, the sound of rescue, the sound of

Stories of Service promotes the

fundraising drive to build a Fisher

in Ann Arbor and Detroit. "Other

states have as many as five or more Fisher Houses," said Brad Chick,

president of Fisher House Michigan.

"A Fisher House provides no-charge

our ailing active service members and

veterans during medical procedures.

Michigan has none, and we are

committed to changing that."

accommodations to the families of

House at the VA Healthcare Systems

About Fisher House



Edie Meeks, an Army nurse in the Vietnam War, is one of five former service members who will share their stories on November 5 at Hill Auditorium.

another medevac of wounded soldiers who would survive, thanks to Edie Meeks ... Above all, the Huey was the sound of freedom, the sound of going home."

Stories of Service is being directed by Wallace Bridges, professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and Theatre Arts at Eastern Michigan University, and an Army veteran who once supervised the handling of nuclear-tipped Pershing tactical missiles in Germany.

"We have a former Navy pilot who did 360 carrier landings in combat jets," Bridges told us, "who now roams the Pacific to find and bring home the remains of WWII pilots to their families. We have a soldier who served in high-tech military intelligence before she was sidelined by an automobile accident. She now works with the families of our active combat veterans. We have a master storyteller who grew up in a ghetto, enlisted and patrolled the

According to Fisher House documents,

"18 months after a Fisher House

was approved for the VA Ann Arbor

Dingell VA Medical Center (VAMC)

in Detroit. By joining forces, Detroit

and Ann Arbor's combined effort for

million to pay for total construction

costs and to support a Fisher House

Manager, who will be assigned by the

VA to each facility, with amenities for

the veterans' families. Michigan will get

FHM set a strategic goal of raising \$20

Healthcare System, a second house for

Michigan was approved for the John D.

DMZ in Korea, and is now earning his doctorate."

"Our audience has grown tremendously over the years as the word has spread about the quality of our speakers and the stories they tell," says 96-year-old Art Holst, a member of the *Stories of Service* planning committee. Holst was with George S. Patton's Third Army as it rolled into Germany and freed the Jewish prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Fourth Annual Stories of Service event – November 5, from 7-9 pm at Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium – will be a night to remember. Tickets are free and may be ordered online. Donations are encouraged. For more information, visit storiesofservice.org. Stories of Service is made possible by generous gifts from Michigan Medicine, Old National Bank, MASCO and other donors.

CHIGA **

its first Fisher House in Ann Arbor when groundbreaking occurs in 2019. Construction of the Fisher House at the VAMC will follow at a yet-undetermined time.

WHAT: 4th Annual Stories of Service – Nov. 5, 7-9 p.m., at Hill Auditorium

TICKETS: Free at storiesofservice.org or the Hill Auditorium box office

DONATIONS: Help build Michigan's first two Fisher Houses

Veteran Resources

Emergency housing and supportive services in Washtenaw County: coordinated by HAWC – 734-961-1999.

Nationwide housing assistance: call the Homeless Vet Hotline to be put in touch with the nearest VA – 877-424-3838.

Medical and mental health needs: enroll for VA benefits at www.vets.gov/health-care/apply or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Mon-Fri between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., EDT. You can also apply in person at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital located at 2215 Fuller Rd.

VA benefits such as disability, pension and vocational rehabilitation as well as help with financial emergencies and access to the National Cemeteries: call or visit Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs, 734-973-4540, 2155 Hogback Rd., Ann Arbor; walk-in hours on weekday mornings.

Employment: visit hiremivet. org for upcoming job fairs and workshops. A hiring event for veterans is scheduled for Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. - noon at the Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor.

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Jamie & Robin Agnew

Get health insurance now! A call to action

by Susannah Feinstein Groundcover Contributor

Do you, or someone you know, need free or low-cost healthcare coverage? Without health insurance coverage, people who become ill can wind up with doctor bills ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars. But even more importantly, small health problems can turn into big ones – landing you or your loved ones in the hospital.

In today's world, it can sometimes seem difficult for people to register for health insurance coverage. Don't let that stop you, though. It's easy to get quality, accessible insurance with a few simple steps.

How to enroll

Step 1: Plan ahead. Now is the time to act. The six-week open enrollment period for 2019 healthcare coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace runs from November 1 to December 15, 2018. After December 15, you can't enroll in or change plans, unless you qualify for a special enrollment period. So, start planning now and know that there are caring people on the other end of the phone – known as healthcare navigators – who are eager to assist you

Step 2: Gather documenting materials. To know if you qualify for free or low-cost healthcare coverage, healthcare navigators will need to know your income and the size of your household. To do that, you'll need to share with them a few pieces of information:

A PLACE FOR

supporting the values and programs that strengthen your community. At the Y, children learn what they can achieve, families spend quality time together and we all build relationships that deepen our sense of belonging. Financial assistance available.

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- Your social security card or number
- Your most recent pay stubs (current income information)
- Your most recent tax return
- The names and ages of people in your household
- Information about any insurance your employer offers (even if you think it's expensive). If you can't find all of these materials, don't worry. Gather what you can and move on to step three.

Step 3: Make an appointment. After accessing the information listed in step two, or even if you are not able to find this information, call the Washtenaw Health Plan at 734-544-3030 to make an appointment with a navigator, or call or visit any of the local agencies offering enrollment assistance listed at: www.healthcarecounts.org/washtenaw-county.

Please remember that there are caring people waiting for your call and hoping to help you. These individuals know all about health care insurance and publicly funded health plans, including the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, MiChild, and the Washtenaw Health Plan. Trained and certified patient advocates can help you understand your options and guide you through the application process. They can help you select health care coverage that is right for you. These appointments are free, and Spanish, Arabic and French in-person interpretation services are available.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149
Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



NOVEMBER 2018 EVENTS:

November 1

November 18

Hops and Hallelujah, All Saints Edition, 6 p.m. at

Conor O'Neills (downtown)

November 1 & 15 Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15

November 4 Totenfest Memorial service, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

November 4 Totenfest Memorial service, 8:30 & 10:00 November 8 Adult Education class, UCC 101, 1:30-3:00

November 14 Adult Education class, UCC 101, 1:30-3:00

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Bethlehem, 7 p.m.

(see separate advertisement)

November 22-23 Church office closed for Thanksgiving holiday November 30 Living Nativity at Bethlehem Church, 6-8:30,

in front of the church, on 4th Avenue.

December 1 Ann Arbor Youth Chorale Winter concert at Bethlehem



8:30 a.m. Chapel 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary 10:15 a.m. Sunday school

> Coffee Connection follows each service



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Veterans Matter: working together to permanently house Veterans

by Susan Beckett

"There are homeless veterans out there literally on their knees right now praying to find a deposit so their family can cross the threshold to a house that is ready and waiting for them," said Ken Leslie, founder of Toledo-based Veterans Matter. "It is up to us who can, to

Prior to starting Veterans Matter, Leslie assisted Shawn Dowling, Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care for Homeless Veterans coordinator for the southeast Michigan/northwest Ohio catchment area, with outreach.

"We know that veterans are homeless longer than their non-veteran counterparts and at higher rates than their non-veteran counterparts," said Dowling. "And many times our veterans are not going present in a shelter so we go out into the woods, along bridges, overpasses and highways and find those veterans who are camping outside. Before Veterans Matter was started, Ken Leslie and I were out doing outreach one day, and he asked me, 'What's one thing that veterans need to quickly exit the streets and go into permanent housing?' I said, 'You know, the deposits are taking us a long time. They're holding the process up. Plus, we have to take the veteran to various agencies to ask them for money for the deposit for their apartment."

"So, you're telling me that you got this housing and then after they get housed you're able to provide services and case management, but they can't get there because of the deposits?" asked Leslie. "She said, 'Yeah,' and that just about broke my heart. That night I came up with the idea for Veterans Matter – We Take Care of our Own: write the check directly to the landlord, 100 percent success rate. I called a foundation and said we need \$26,250 and I need it at black ops speed because there are 35 veterans waiting. It was 11 days from idea to execution."

Veterans Matter partners with VA homelessness programs to help get veterans off the streets and into long-term housing. Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Section 8 vouchers cover rent but not deposits.

"The Veterans Matter application is so easy for our social workers – only one page - and the process is seamless," said Dowling. "It helps us move the process along and build trust with the veterans. Within 24 hours the landlord knows that the deposit money is coming. It





"It's good to have your own place" - Veteran Shantorey Wilkins (left). "It is up to us who can, to help" - Ken Leslie (right) is the founder of Toledo-based Veterans Matter and a source of initial funding for Groundcover News.

used to take 28 to 90 days; long enough that some veterans gave up on the

To date, the VA/Veterans Matter collaboration has helped more than 2,500 veterans and their families get off the streets and into housing. More than 500 of those were in Michigan, and more than 100 were in Washtenaw County.

Veterans Matter supplied the deposit for some of the 15 veterans housed at Ann Arbor's Miller Manor with HUD/ VASH vouchers. They also helped a local veteran suffering from PTSD who lost his job and housing. With the voucher and deposit, he was placed in Avalon Housing. One year later, he got custody of his three children.

Homelessness was avoided by a female veteran and her two children who were temporarily living in crowded quarters with a friend in Ypsilanti. She contacted the VA before she had to leave and with their help and that of Veterans Matter, she got an apartment for herself and her

Veteran Shantorey Wilkins was elated to leave the veteran transitional housing he lived in for six months and move into his own place in Ypsilanti, secured in a partnership between the VA, Veterans Matter and Michigan Ability Partners. "It's good to have your own place," Wilkins said. "You don't have to worry about what's going to happen to your stuff when your friend's friends come by. You can concentrate on school, work, recovery ..."

Veterans Matter currently operates in 20 states. Their goal is housing 1,000 vets in the next year alone. Through October, they helped house more than 627 in 2018 as compared to 604 in 2017 and 371 in 2016. Funding partners have fueled the dramatic increases.

Mitch Albom donated to house Detroit veterans, as did Kid Rock and Katy Perry. John Mellencamp donated to Veterans Matter to house vets in Indiana.

"Mitch just seriously cares. I had gotten an email on a Monday from the Detroit VA saying they needed our help. That's when I realized I was doing God's work. By Wednesday, Mr. Albom was all in."

Due in part to Albom's involvement, First Nation Group/Jordan Reses (an Ann Arbor, Michigan-based national distributor of medical equipment and supplies) decided to help in early 2015. Donations from the company, its employees and its suppliers, have housed 250 veterans and veteran families in Michigan, and another 816 in Ohio, Colorado and Mississippi. Some of that money was designated for Ann Arbor and other areas in Michigan.

Though corporate and celebrity sponsors play a huge role in expansion, 20 percent of donations have come from ordinary individuals and 17 percent

from veterans' organizations such as VFWs and Legions. All money deployed by Veterans Matter results in veterans being housed. Individual sums have ranged from \$75-2,500, with the national average being \$750.

Veterans Matter disperses funds in areas determined by donor direction or through their Operation Greatest Need, which works with the VA national office in areas where waiting veterans have no other option for deposits in a timely manner. The veterans are selected by their social workers at a VA medical center or a community-based outpatient clinic.

"The VA social workers are the real heroes in this story and they are who we interface with. They find the vets and the housing," Leslie said.

The wrap-around services provided by those social workers is largely what accounts for the 91 percent success rate in staying housed for HUD-VASH voucher recipients.

Leslie comes to this work from a place of experience. He was once a stand-up comedian and addict who was homeless himself. He eventually committed to sobriety and founded a very successful employment agency in the technology industry. He used his money and connections to help run the Toledo Tent City, where people in need could get clothing and survival supplies as well as some personal care. He then used his money and experience to help start

see VETERANS MATTER, page 11



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Sunday 7 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm

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Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 18 at 7pm* Celebrating Compassion and Beauty

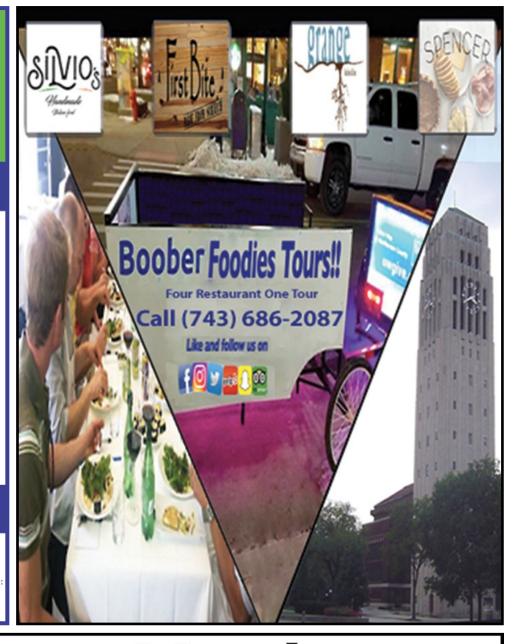
Bethlehem United Church of Christ 423 4th Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

*6pm Bethlehem UCC Open House with Rev. John Kennedy

Join us as we give thanks with readings, music, and meditations from a wide variety of faith traditions around the theme of "Celebrating Compassion & Beauty." Refreshments following the celebration. Donations accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. 2019 Interfaith Calendars also available

For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides at 734-424-1535 or email gbrides@umich.edu.

Interfaith Round Table Supporting Congregations Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
: Baha'i Spiritual Assembly: Beth Israel Congregation: Bethlehem United Church of Christ:
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: First Congregational Church: First Presbyterian Church: First United Methodist Church:
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: St. Paul's United Church of Christ: Trinity Lutheran Church: Unity on Campus Ministry:
: Zen Buddhist Temple: Zion Lutheran Church:





Affordable Housing

Ann Arbor is in the middle of a housing crisis. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a person would have to earn \$19.71/hr to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Ann Arbor. We are the eighth-most economically segregated city in the US, and the most expensive area in Michigan.

I believe that, if we are going to solve this crisis, we shouldn't limit ourselves to answers that cause developers to make money.

Instead, I propose that we create a city income tax of 1% on residents and 0.5% on nonresidents who work here and make more than a certain amount of money. With the revenue from this tax, we can build new housing units on land that the city already owns affordable housing, not luxury condos.

Ryan Hughes Independent for City Council Democratic Socialist

VOTE



Ward 1 www.iheartryan.com

Black Lives Matter

More than three years since the Ann Arbor police shot and killed Aura Rosser, a Black woman and mother of three. Shamefully little has been done to address the conditions that led to her death. We need a civilian oversight commission that is strong and independent. We need mental health crisis responders who can respond to calls instead of police, and will be guaranteed not to shoot the people they are supposed to help.

Paid for by Ryan Hughes for City Council, 214 Charles St, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103

A Passion for... **Activism**

I created The Michigan Organizer, an online calendar that helps activists coordinate with each other:

www.michiganorganizer.info

Arts

I am a DJ on 88.3FM WCBN. You can hear me Wed morning, 6-9am, where I feature music made by

I also write and perform marionette puppet shows with the Dreamland Theater in Ypsilanti.













PUZZLES ON MY CORNER

Boober Tours gearing up for winter



by Kevin Spangler Groundcover Vendor #307

Seasons are changing - we have had a beautiful fall. The football games have been amazing for helping Boober Tours save for the winter. We are all gearing up for the winter, getting most of our

gear from the Kiwanis thrift store.

Last month I took a course at SPARK on Facebook marketing. I learned a lot. While we were there, we were talking with SPARK and they suggested renting us a spot to work in for Glitch and I to build our app.

I spend a lot of my time calculating where Boober's money will go to further the business. I don't like taking financial risks. I am currently build-

ing another advertising trailer and I decided to add a roof for bad weather, putting me over budget. I had pitched a company that I thought was going to purchase the ad space, but that fell through. But, Trinity Lutheran church donated \$3,000 to help Boober Tours create more second-chance jobs. I am negotiating the deal now to get cabs from New York.

I never look at anything negatively when I pray and chant for things -

had the strike of being women, but also

was very much different from that of a

but had to be more hidden in the sense

that being too vocal could cause deadly

circumstances. The African Ameri-

women due to racist tactics against

them. White women could not speak

to or understand the issues that Afri-

can American women faced on a daily

basis. Let's be clear: African American

never spoken about or mentioned until

I feel Will captured the era beautifully

and illustrated how the entire suffrag-

times. In journalism, you can't have just

one side of a story, but all sides to make

one big picture. Will's story and article

told. Will captured the African Ameri-

was well written, inclusive and well

can women voice so eloquently.

Monica Porter

ette movement looked during those

women did accomplish major issues

alongside white women, but it was

can could not join equally with white

being black in America. So, their fight

white woman. It was just as powerful

always something better comes along, or at least I don't put myself in a situation that could hurt the business. I have continued my doubling of meditation from one hour to two hours and I have been feeling great. "Bad" people have been leaving my life and "good" people have been coming into



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Remembering Anne Frank

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the article in the June issue on the Holocaust and Anne Frank ["Remembering Anne Frank and the WWII Holocaust"]. It was written by Will Shakespeare (real name?) and well-written it was. However, when mentioning the Righteous Gentiles who helped rescue the Jews, I see you failed to mention Pope Pius the 12th - the so-called "silent Pope," who through clandestine efforts saved as many as 860,000 Jews, Gypsies, and others from Nazi extermination.

Early in the war he was told by secular as well as religious leaders to tone down his rhetoric concerning ill treatment of the Jews. Jewish leaders themselves asked him to be silent as any condemnation of the atrocities only caused them to be intensified. So, the Pope took other measures. Jews were hidden in Vatican buildings, as well as monasteries and convents throughout Europe.

The Pope had underground printing

presses creating false Catholic birth and baptism certificates to help Jews evade the slaughter. It is true, he couldn't save all, but he did save more than all other religious and secular agencies combined. Just thought I would mention this as it was mistakenly left out of your article. I always buy the Groundcover. Glad I can help in some small way. God

Ron Pagereski

African American suffragettes

Dear Editor,

I am sending you a review about Will Shakepeare's article ["The deep roots of #MeToo – a history of the Suffragette movement," July 2018 issue].

I think it is very much needed in today's society. When Will first mentioned to me that he was writing this article about the women suffragettes, [I felt that] he was coming at it from a white woman's perspective and focus. Which is still a powerful tool of its own.

However, [as Will's article indeed showed] we also had African American women who were a part of this era. #MeToo history African American women not only

Dear Editor,

I would like to express how much I enjoyed Will Shakespeare's article in the July 2018 edition of Groundcover ["The deep roots of #MeToo – a history of the Suffragette movement"]. I love Groundcover because of the issues it addresses that are sometimes overlooked in other media outlets. I think Will did a great job on this story. It was eloquently written, backed up by facts, and touched on an issue that carries historical significance but is still important today. I especially liked the section on black suffragettes, because their influence in the movement, not to mention the extra adversities they faced, are often overlooked.

I've read Will's other articles, too, and am always impressed by his way with words and ability to report on important political issues with such wonderful facts and sources. I would love to see more of his writing in Groundcover!

Xailia

GROUNDCOVER **VENDOR CODE**

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and

3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9

Sudoku **** 4puz.com

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While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors

who have been suspended or terminated.

92

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- · I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respect fully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: contact@groundcovernews.com, (734) 707-9210.

Java Script

by Victor Fleming and Tracy Bennett

- 1. Mom near the Marne
- **5.** "Wicked Game" singer Chris 10. SAT scores go-with, on college
- 14. Let go at the office
- **15.** "____, With Love" (1967 movie or song)
- 16. "This could be bad" 17. Timed competition
- 18. "r u 4 real?"
- 19. Antoine Domino's nickname
- 20. Start of a barista's declaration on customer appreciation day
- 23. City of Hawks and Falcons, on
- **24.** Hoppy quaffs, for short
- 25. Practically catapulted **26.** Appeal to arms?
- 28. Particle in a salt solution
- 29. First thing Little Miss Muffet did
- **32.** Rain-bringing wind
- 35. Gainer, e.g.
- **36.** "Simpson " (fan site) **39.** Part 2 of the declaration
- 40. Palindromic chill pill
- **41.** Willa Cather's "One of "
- **42.** Convertible, of a sort
- 44. Ace count, at times
- 45. Diner brew 46. Entomologist's specimen
- 50. GI's charge
- **52.** 2012 Ben Affleck political
- **54.** Oath
- **55.** End of the declaration
- 59. Plains people
- **60.** Hunk, as of grassy sod
- **61.** Escape
- **62.** Commanded like a queen **63.** Cause a knot not to be
- 64. River through Stratford
- 65. "Where the Sidewalk Ends"
- author Silverstein
- **66.** They may be checkered
- 67. Iris's backing

- 2. Precise, in Puerto Rico
- 3. Bring back from memory

10. Office coffee fetcher

11. Introduces slowly

22. Darling or Howard

28. Early caucus state

31. Western nickname

33. Farrier's fabrication

- - 40. Headlight gas
 - 42. Iconic red tailgate party sight

34. Slangy sound of discomfort

35. Root beer brand

36. Lovebird's murmur

37. Get on the ballot

38. 734 or 501, e.g.

- **43.** Gorillas and the like
- 45. Exultant feeling
- 47. Demonstrate Darwinism
- 48. Enticement
- demographic
- **52.** Shares a boundary with
- 55. Underworld groups
- **57.** Humerus connection

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone @ 2018

You'd think our love would be enough for them



Yet they want so much more! They sure do get wrapped



Even when it's Thanksgiving, they seem unable to count their blessings.

simple pleasures of life, like the rich harvest they claim to enjoy? Daniel (

Why can't they revel in the

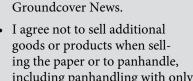
gourds in their cornucopia Hey, I have my own way to celebrate the harvest! Plus, gourds make such a wonderful sound rattling between the china and

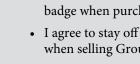


Your point might have been

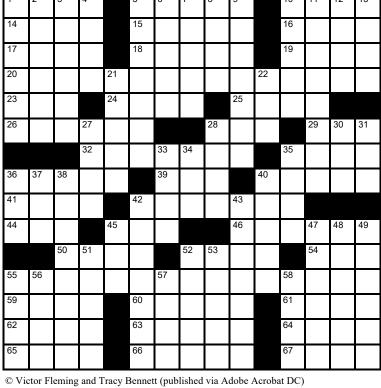
better made if you'd refrained

from playing with the centerpiece





- I understand to refrain from selling



Down

7. Silly sorts

13. Ho-hum

DuVernay

- 1. Carey known for her high notes
- 4. Pre-fall home
- 5. "Let yourself in!" 6. Kinda kin?

12. Sugar bowl invaders, at times

27. Between-forces areas: Abbr.

30. "A Wrinkle in Time" director

21. Quinto's "Star Trek" predecessor

- 8. Needs some TLC
- 9. Supergirl's birthplace
 - 49. Forsythe, Clague and Slauson
 - **51.** Revolutionary idea?

 - **53.** Give payment

 - 56. Park City's state
 - 58. Pan name

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Detroit – canary in the mine: an interview with Monica Lewis-Patrick, Michigan's water warrior

by Emily Green

Editor's note: The following excerpt (Part 1 of 3 – read Part 2 in the December edition of Groundcover News) comes from an article originally printed by our sister paper, Street Roots, in Portland, Oregon, on April 27, 2018.

Part 1

Michigan's water crises have attracted national attention as residents in a state practically surrounded by water struggle to access it. From lead-poisoned drinking water in Flint to the massive water utility shut-offs in Detroit, impoverished communities of color are bearing the brunt of discriminatory policies that effectively deny them their most basic of human needs.

What's happening in Flint and Detroit could be cause for alarm across the nation. The installation of governorappointed emergency managers, who supersede control of elected officials, exacerbates problems caused by austerity measures put in place, predominantly in African-American neighborhoods, following Detroit's bankruptcy filing in

Detroit has the highest poverty rate among the 20 largest U.S. cities, at 35.7 percent. Low incomes in combination with high water prices mean tens of thousands of households have their water shut off each year.

In the wake of problems facing African-American communities in Detroit, resident and lifelong activist Monica Lewis-Patrick has become a prominent voice. In 2008, Lewis-Patrick and four other African-American women co-founded We the People of Detroit, a nonprofit that informs and empowers residents on issues related to land, water, civil rights, education and the

Groundcover vendors to observe HAW

In honor of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 9–17), the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA) is sponsoring several events (see ad, right), including a night of storytelling and art. "Voices of Homelessness" takes place Friday, November 9 from 6-8 pm at Ypsilanti's Historic Freighthouse.

Groundcover News vendors were among last year's storytellers and there is an excellent chance that some will participate again this year.

democratic process. It also delivers water to the doorsteps of those who cannot otherwise access it.

Emily Green: First I wanted to give our readers a sense of the situation in Detroit, and I was hoping you could begin by talking about something Detroit residents refer to as "the blue line of

Monica Lewis-Patrick: The blue line of shame in Detroit is where the water department, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, goes out to the homes that are in jeopardy of losing their water service and marks a very bold and large blue line in front of the house. Sometimes it's just a singular line. Sometimes it's an arrow pointing to the water shut off connection. It alerts the whole community that you're in jeopardy of having your water shut off.

E.G.: We the People of Detroit, the nonprofit you are a CEO, president and cofounder of, did a mapping project that revealed the city was more aggressively shutting off water in African-American neighborhoods.

M.L.P.: That's correct. They're shutting off water systematically in particular neighborhoods where they want to clear out the population and bring in a new population. We did something

WATER FACTS: PORTLAND VS. DETROIT

	PORTLAND	DETROIT
Typical monthly water bill*	\$100	\$75
Median household income	\$58,423 (2016)	\$26,249
Number of residential shut-offs, 2017	4,459	17,689 (JanOct.)
*I Itilit. ustas inaludastau aaa.	and duning an Courses	Portland Water Pures II C Concue

*Utility rates include water, sewer and drainage. Sources: Portland Water Burea, U.S. Census, The Detroit News

Most Detroiters are paying more than 10 percent of ther income for water. According to Lewis-Patrick, "impoverished communities of color are bearing the brunt of discrimatory that effectively deny them their most basic of human needs."

called "Mapping the Water Crisis: The Dismantlement of African-American Neighborhoods in Detroit." What we did was convene about 25 researchers that are experts in everything from GIS mapping to architecture to water infrastructure. We convened them together to really be able to leverage their expertise because many times when they won't believe the activists, they'll believe the academics.

E.G.: Most people know if they don't pay their utility bill, the utilities will eventually be shut off. That seems to be pretty universal in the U.S., but in Detroit, the U.N. actually got involved in the water shut-offs, and I believe you testified before the U.N. on this matter. What was it about the whole situation that made the U.N. deem the shut-offs to be a human rights violation?

M.L.P.: Well it's a human rights violation because the vast majority of Detroiters are paying more than 10 percent of their income to access

Over the last 10 years, water rates have gone up over 126 percent. As a matter of fact, over the last 20 years, it's gone up as much as 400 percent. In terms of the rate structure, it's not equitable and it's not fair. Detroit is bearing the burden of building out this system to 126 municipalities and townships. If they were spreading that across all 126 municipalities and townships, you would see a fair rate structure.

Right now, Detroit and Flint are the only municipalities in the 126 service areas that have these very aggressive

see DETROIT, page 11

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Sponsored by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County Join hundreds of compassionate friends and business partners as we impact hunger and homelessness right here in our community. SUNDAY **NOVEMBER** IITH SATURDAY NOVEMBER **SERVICE SUNDAY** NOVEMBER I5TH **FRIDAY** I3TH NOVEMBER **FASTING OR NOVEMBER 9TH SLEEP OUT** EVENT WRAP UP I4TH SNAP CHALLENGE Art Expo/ Poetry InTentCity DAY OF **60 MINUTE** Various Story Telling **NOVEMBER 16TH** STAND UP Camp-Out In Partnership with STAND OUT MOVE OUT & DINE IN University of MI, **Local Non-Profits PUT A ROOF ON I CHALLENGE** At the Ypsilanti at The Ann Arbor Dominos Pizza Lunch Freight House Liberty Park & Comedy Showcase ommunity Colle Visit HUNGER annarborshelter.org/events November 9-17, & HOME for more information LESSNESS 2018 **AWARENESS** WEEK

Veterans Matter

continued from page 6

Toledo Streets, a street newspaper that helped people without options alleviate their own poverty by selling the paper. He founded 1Matters as the funding organization for these projects. The initial funding for the street papers, Groundcover News and Thrive Detroit, also came from 1Matters.

When Leslie learned that securing deposit funds was a systemic problem, he started Veterans Matter. Leslie used his industry expertise to create an online, cloud-based system to allow VA housing coordinators to quickly access and secure deposit payments for veterans. By 2015, he had to choose between his six-figure industry salary and Veterans Matter, which he could no longer run in his spare time. Under his full-time guidance, the organization has more than doubled its impact.

There are 40,000 vets still living on the streets in the United States. Of the vets who got deposits from Veterans Matter, 22 percent were family units of whom 78 percent had children. Single parents accounted

continued from page 10

water shut-off policies. Most of

these cities have policies that say it

doesn't matter how much you owe;

your water won't be shut off. Then

in a few other cities, they have pol-

icies that say you have up to two to

three consecutive billing cycles. In

those communities, billing cycles

are anywhere from two to three

months. So you could go almost

a year without paying your water

bill before you're even threatened

and Flint, it's 30 days.

with a shut-off, whereas in Detroit

There was research done by Mich-

igan State University at the begin-

ning of the year – I think it was

Detroit's water woes

for 53 percent of those families with children.

The Toledo area is used as a laboratory where Veterans Matter is always looking for holes to fill effectively. "Veterans Matters has also been a great partner in helping with volunteers who help us go out and do street-level outreach blitzes and visit with our vets for socialization and assistance with personal goals they might have, like taking them out and getting their hair cut or beard trimmed, going grocery shopping or purchasing clothes for veterans who are starting a job," said

According to Leslie, homelessness is a simple problem to solve. People who don't have homes get one. The rest is just details he tackles one-by-one and encourages others to do so, too. There are myriad suggestions for involvement on their website, veteransmatter.org, from individual action to corporate partnerships or finding your own holes to fill. You can follow and share them on Facebook and Twitter (@GetVetsHoused) or to donate now, text "Vets" to 41444.

released in the top of February

- which states that 35 percent of

America, by the year 2020, will

not be able to afford their water.

So for us, it's about the human

right to water. It's not about

free water, but it's about a rate

structure that is fair and equi-

3.5 percent of their

- Look for Part 2

in the December

edition of Ground-

cover News. -

income to access

water.

table. And we believe that people

should not be paying more than

10 for \$10

Exploring Washtenaw County on the cheap

by Elizabeth Bauman, Groundcover Contributor

Looking for something to do that won't break the bank? Hoping to try something new? Wanting a little something sweet or savory? **10** for **\$10** is here to provide you with low-cost or free things to do in Washtenaw County.

- 1. Get on your mountain bike (or borrow one) and ride the **DTE Foundation Trail** in Chelsea. There is a trail for beginners as well as two trails for those who want to challenge themselves. Exhilarating.
- 2. Go to Frita Batidos and get what is truly The Best Snack **Ever.** This layered snack has coconut-ginger rice, black beans, cheese and salsa. Oh, just so good.
- 3. Pick up a butternut squash from the indoor Ypsilanti Farmers Marketplace at 16 South Washington, open on Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m. See the recipe found in this issue for a scrumptious soup to warm you on a cold November day.
- 4. Walk around and enjoy the University of Michigan campus on football Saturdays. No need to buy a ticket to feel you are part of the excitement. Free.
- **5.** Turn balloons into fun critters at the Mallett's Creek branch of the Ann Arbor District Library on Saturday, November 24. Designed for children K-5th grade. 2-3 p.m. Free.
- **6.** The Michigan Firehouse Museum and Education Center in Ypsilanti near Depot Town has engaging and informative exhibits to be enjoyed by people of all ages.
- **7.** Monday at the Movies take your Saline District Library card to the Emagine Theater on the second Monday in each month and get a movie ticket and small popcorn for \$8.
- 8. Get a delicious pretzel or doughnut at The Dexter Bakery on Main Street in Dexter.
- 9. Get some delicious Middle Eastern food at Argus Farm **Stop** on Packard on Thursdays from 10-3. I was so lucky to meet the gracious woman who makes the food on my last visit. A perfect light lunch.
- **10.** Vote on November 6. Your voice is important. Free.

Want to contribute to 10 for \$10? Please send ideas for inexpensive treasures and experiences in and around our vibrant community to submissions@groundcovernews.com.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

8	9	5	6	2	4	7	1	3
3	1	2	9	8	7	5	6	4
4	6	7	5	3	1	8	9	2
6	3	4	7	1	9	2	5	8
2	7	9	3	5	8	6	4	1
5	8	1	4	6	2	3	7	9
7	2	8	1	9	6	4	3	5
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FOOD 12

Coconut curried butternut squash soup

by Elizabeth Bauman **Groundcover Contributor**

Ingredients:

2 medium butternut squashes, cut length-wise into halves and seeds removed

4 teaspoons olive oil

1 teaspoon salt

Pinch of black pepper

1 cup diced carrots

1 cup diced celery

1 teaspoon curry powder

6 gloves minced garlic

1 small onion, diced

4 cups chicken or vegetable broth

13 fluid ounces coconut milk

2 tablespoons fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place rack in the middle of oven.

Place the butternut halves cut-side up on a baking sheet lined with foil. Rub 2 teaspoons of the oil on the squash. Sprinkle the squash with the salt and pepper. Roast until tender, 50-60 minutes. Remove from the oven and cool for 10 minutes, use a spoon to scoop out the flesh (about four cups) and set aside.

Heat the remaining 2 teaspoons of oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the carrots, celery, curry powder, garlic and onions. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are translucent and the carrots are fork-tender (about 5-10) minutes). Add the squash, coconut milk and broth to the saucepan. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 7

minutes. Allow to cool for 10 minutes.

Doing a small batch at a time, puree the soup in a blender or food processor until smooth. Add dash of salt to taste. Serve warm, garnished with a little chopped parsley.

Creamy and delicious soup, prepared dairy-free with coconut milk. So very delicious on a cool November night!





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